NHs taken up in Himachal Pradesh

1900. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways (NHs) taken up during the last three years in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the details thereof, highway-wise;

(c) the recommendations of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh pending with the Union Government; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H MUNIAPPA): (a) National Highway No's 1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72 and 88 have been taken up for development during the last three years.

(b) The details highway-wise are given below:

NH No.	No. of works	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1A	1	62.80
20	30	52.61
21	14	18.57
21A	4	11.40
22	31	150.44
70	12	18.76
72	6	14.27
88	16	42.54

(c) and (d) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has submitted proposals for declaring nine roads as National Highways. At present emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Corruption in road construction projects

1901. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of corruption in road construction projects have been observed in the past;

(b) if so, the details of noticeable instances of corruption indicating locations of the respective affected projects;

(c) whether any review of execution of National Highway projects have been carried out, *inter alia*, to ascertain the degree of transparency prevailing in each case;

(d) if so, the salient details of fundings thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken, if any, to enforce transparency in implementation of National Highways and construction of other projects under Bharat Nirman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Constitutionally, the Government of India is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. All other roads are under the administrative control of the State Governments. Complaints about irregularities and malpractices etc. have been received by the executing agencies in certain stray cases. Appropriate action has been taken in all these cases.

(c) to (f) Transparent procedure for awarding the contracts and their implementation is followed to avoid scope for corruption in National Highway works. The Government has suitable mechanism in place to review the execution of National Highway Projects and to prevent corruption. The bidding procedure is revised and updated from time to time to ensure, *inter alia*, greater degree of transparency in the procurements.

Bharat Nirman has a component for development of Rural Roads. Measures like standard bidding document, online monitoring, display of citizen's information boards, etc. have been put in place for ensuring quality and transparency in execution of rural road projects under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

Four-laning on NH-9 in Andhra Pradesh

1902. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Union Government for giving sanction to construction of elevated four lane road from BHEL Ramchandrapuram to Hayath Nagar on NH-9;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the funds allocated for the above said road project; and

(d) the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Cess on petrol and diesel for road construction projects

†1903. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cess per litre on petrol and high speed diesel is collected for road construction projects and is being made available to the various Departments related to road construction;

(b) if so, the details of cess collected and its distribution during the current financial session including the last three financial sessions, year-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.